

BARNEY FRANK  
4<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

2252 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-2104  
(202) 225-5931

29 CRAFTS STREET  
SUITE 375  
NEWTON, MA 02458  
(617) 332-3920

558 PLEASANT STREET  
ROOM 309  
NEW BEDFORD, MA 02740  
(508) 999-6462

THE JONES BUILDING  
29 BROADWAY  
SUITE 310  
TAUNTON, MA 02780  
(508) 822-4796

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC**

Dear Friend,

Thank you for contacting me about extending the 65% COBRA health insurance subsidy.

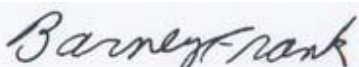
I agree with you that we should extend this crucial health security to those who are in danger of losing their coverage because of the continually bleak job numbers, especially in light of our recent extension of the unemployment insurance provided for in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, also known as the "Recovery Act" or "stimulus". I am cosponsor of two bills to do this, and I've also stated publicly numerous times my feelings of dissatisfaction with the stimulus not being as strong as it initially should've been.

The first bill, H.R. 3966, introduced by my colleague Congressman Carson, extends by 6 months the amount of time unemployed workers can receive the Recovery Act's 65% reduction in monthly premiums through COBRA, and I also signed the enclosed letter to Speaker Pelosi specifically asking that she bring a proposal along these lines before the House floor for a vote.

The second bill, H.R. 3930, the Extended COBRA Continuation Protection Act of 2009, introduced by Congressman Sestak, goes a bit further to do not only that but also extend this eligibility assistance to individuals who lose their job between January 1 and June 30, 2010. It furthermore extends retroactively the qualification for traditional COBRA coverage an extra 6 months, to 24 months, for those terminated at the beginning of 2008 before additional subsidies took effect.

Recognizing subsidized COBRA assistance as a vital lifeline to those still hunting for jobs, I will be working for the passage of both of these bills, and I would add that I recently voted for H.R. 3962, the Affordable Health Care for America Act, comprehensive health care reform legislation that expands and improves the health care system to cover nearly all, part of which allows individuals currently receiving health coverage through COBRA to stay on that coverage until new health insurance purchasing exchanges are put in place.

Sincerely,



BARNEY FRANK

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

December 4, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232 Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

We urge you to quickly bring to the Floor an extension of the COBRA premium assistance adopted as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009.

As you know, beginning on March 1, 2009 a 65 percent tax subsidy for nine months of COBRA benefits became available for workers laid off between September 1, 2008 and December 31, 2009.

With monthly premiums for COBRA coverage averaging over \$400 for individuals and more than \$1,000 for families, the COBRA subsidy has made health care more affordable for the unemployed and their families. According to one survey, the percentage of laid-off employees opting for COBRA has doubled compared with the months immediately prior to enactment of the subsidy.

However, as the COBRA subsidy expires millions of unemployed Americans and their families will become uninsured because they cannot afford their policy. On November 30<sup>th</sup>, the nine-month subsidy expired for the first laid-off workers who received it since it became available and each month thousands more will lose their COBRA benefit unless the subsidy is extended. Additionally, since our nation is faced with the highest unemployment in twenty six years and economists predict more job losses in the coming months, Congress should maintain this important health care safety net.

Under your leadership, the House of Representatives passed historic legislation to ensure affordable health care for all Americans last month. Once again, we look to you for support to ensure unemployed Americans can retain affordable health care coverage.

Thank you for your commitment and ongoing efforts to improve our nation's health care.

Sincerely,



PHIL HARE  
Member of Congress



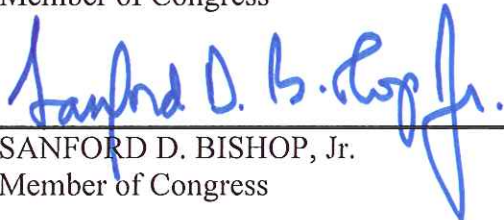
JAMES L. OBERSTAR  
Member of Congress



NIKI TSONGAS  
Member of Congress



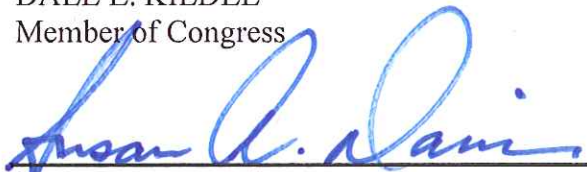
CHARLES A. WILSON  
Member of Congress



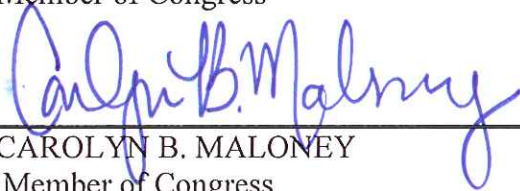
SANFORD D. BISHOP, Jr.  
Member of Congress



DALE E. KILDEE  
Member of Congress



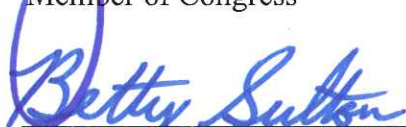
SUSAN A. DAVIS  
Member of Congress



CAROLYN B. MALONEY  
Member of Congress



JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY  
Member of Congress



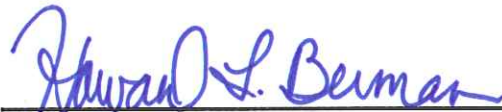
BETTY SUTTON  
Member of Congress




GARY C. PETERS  
Member of Congress



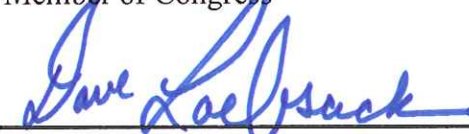
BETTY MCCOLLUM  
Member of Congress



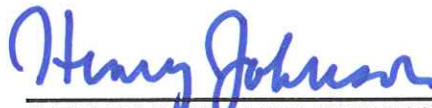
HOWARD L. BERMAN  
Member of Congress



JOHN D. DINGELL  
Member of Congress



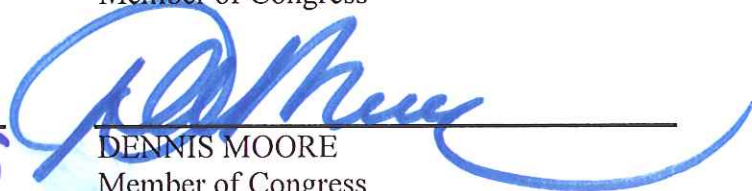
DAVID LOEBSACK  
Member of Congress



HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr.  
Member of Congress



RICK LARSEN  
Member of Congress



DENNIS MOORE  
Member of Congress

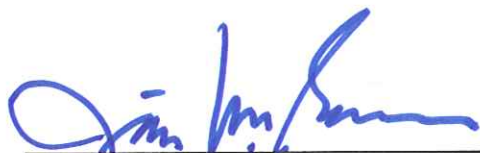


JOHN J. HALL  
Member of Congress



SHELLEY BERKLEY  
Member of Congress





JAMES P. McGOVERN  
Member of Congress



CAROL SHEA-PORTER  
Member of Congress



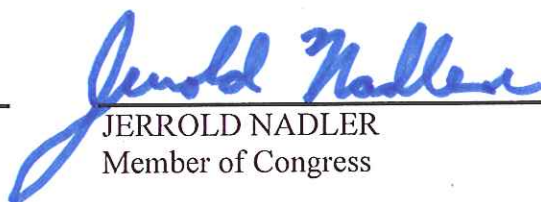
JOHN CONYERS, Jr.  
Member of Congress



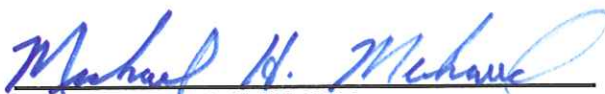
JAMES R. LANGEVIN  
Member of Congress



TAMMY BALDWIN  
Member of Congress



JERROLD NADLER  
Member of Congress



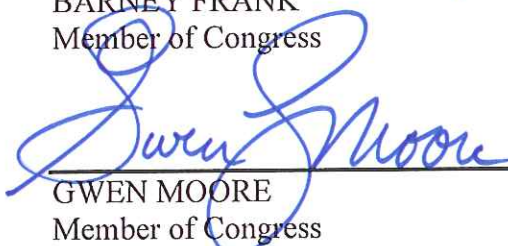
MICHAEL H. MICHAUD  
Member of Congress



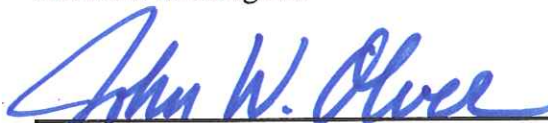
BARNEY FRANK  
Member of Congress



JOE COURTNEY  
Member of Congress



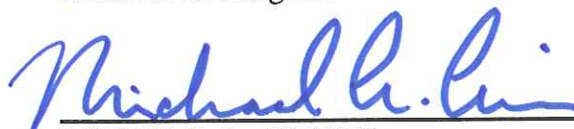
GWEN MOORE  
Member of Congress



JOHN W. OLVER  
Member of Congress



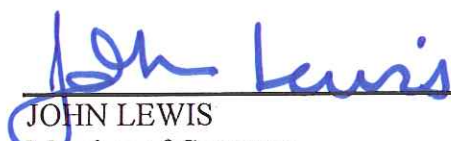
MICHAEL E. CAPUANO  
Member of Congress



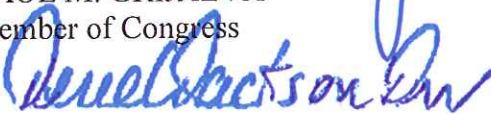
MICHAEL A. ARCURI  
Member of Congress



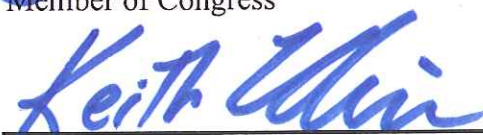
RAUL M. GRIJALVA  
Member of Congress



JOHN LEWIS  
Member of Congress



JESSE L. JACKSON, Jr.  
Member of Congress

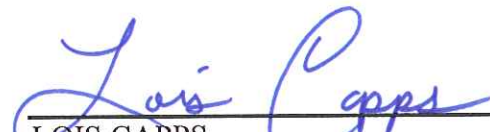


KEITH ELLISON  
Member of Congress





JUDY CHU  
Member of Congress

  
MARCY KAPTUR  
Member of Congress

  
LOIS CAPPS  
Member of Congress

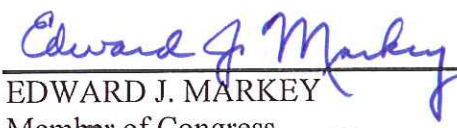
  
DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ  
Member of Congress

  
PATRICK J. KENNEDY  
Member of Congress

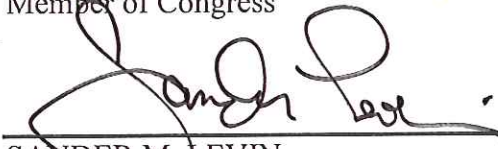
  
PETER WELCH  
Member of Congress

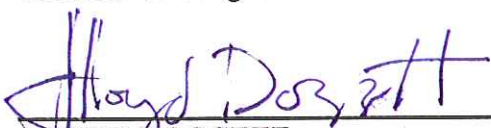
  
BRAD MILLER  
Member of Congress

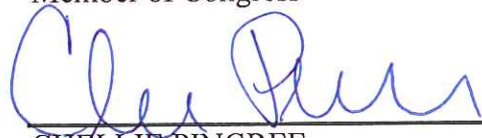
  
STEVEN R. ROTHMAN  
Member of Congress

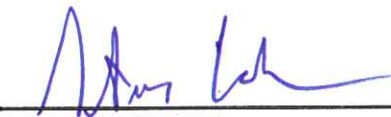
  
EDWARD J. MARKEY  
Member of Congress

  
JOHN P. SARBANES  
Member of Congress

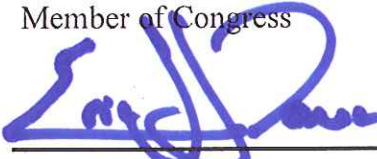
  
SANDER M. LEVIN  
Member of Congress

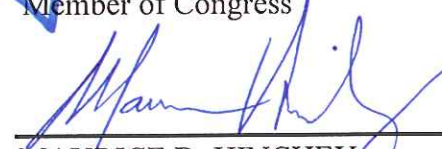
  
LLOYD DOGGETT  
Member of Congress

  
CHELLIE PINGREE  
Member of Congress

  
STEVE COHEN  
Member of Congress

  
JAMES P. MORAN  
Member of Congress

  
ERIC MASSA  
Member of Congress

  
MAURICE D. HINCHEY  
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable Steny Hoyer, Majority Leader  
The Honorable James Clyburn, Majority Whip  
The Honorable John Larson, Democratic Caucus Chairman  
The Honorable Charles Rangel, Chairman of Committee on Ways and Means